

# The Office of Refugee Resettlement



UNHCR/J. Rae

## ORR Highlights from Fiscal Year 2009

In 2009, ORR served thousands of vulnerable populations through its various grants and services. ORR awarded a total of 470 grants; of these, over 200 were awarded to states and over 250 were awarded to non-profit organizations.

### *Refugee Resettlement Program*

ORR funds state governments and non-profit organizations to provide social services that help refugees become self-sufficient. These include employability services like English language instruction, on-the-job training, vocational training, etc.

ORR also awards discretionary grant programs that provide funding to public and private non-profit agencies that support the economic and social integration of refugees, including programs like Services for Survivors of Torture,

Matching Grant, Refugee Rural Initiative, Microenterprise, and Preferred Communities.

During the past year, 74,652 refugees, 11,767 entrants, 22,016 asylees, and 2,612 Iraqi and Afghan Special Immigrant Visa holders were eligible to receive ORR benefits and services.

Below are descriptions of several ORR programs and their accomplishments. Please note: not all 2009 numbers are finalized.

### *Unaccompanied Refugee Minors*

Through its network of caretakers, ORR offers specialized foster care and case management, designed to meet the special needs of unaccompanied refugee children and to help them develop social skills to enter adulthood.

In FY2009, 946 refugee youth were served in this program.

## Mission

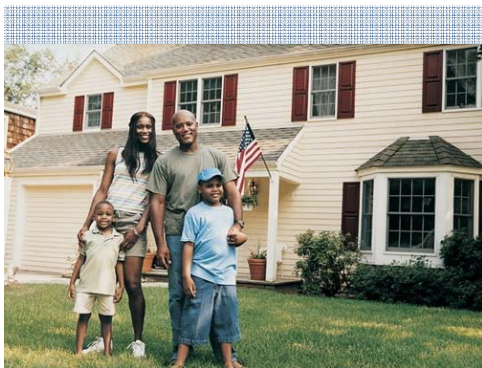
The Office of Refugee Resettlement is committed to helping vulnerable populations transition into their new lives in the United States by providing benefits and services that enable them to achieve self-sufficiency and become integrated members of American society.



"ORR's work is about giving hope, restoring dignity, and lifting spirits."

- Eskinder Negash,  
Director, Office of  
Refugee Resettlement





"We are all part of the human family and we should be about doing what all good families do - caring for our less fortunate brothers and sisters."

- Dan O'Neill  
Founder, Mercy Corps

## Commitment to Helping Vulnerable Populations

### *Unaccompanied Children's Services*

ORR funds care provider facilities nationwide that provide a safe environment for unaccompanied alien children (UAC) until they are reunified with family members or sponsors in the U.S., or until they are removed to their home country by immigration officials. The children receive classroom education, health care, vocational training, mental health services, access to legal services, and case management.

In FY2009, 6,622 UAC were placed in ORR custody. Their length of stay was, on average, 64 days.

### *Anti-Trafficking in Persons*

In addition to offering comprehensive case management to foreign victims of human trafficking and supporting public awareness and outreach campaigns to help identify victims, ORR also certifies victims. Certification makes them eligible to receive federally funded benefits and services to the same extent as refugees so that victims can rebuild their lives safely in the United States.

In FY2009, 330 certifications were issued to adult victims of human trafficking and 50 eligibility letters were issued to child victims of human trafficking.

## Commitment to Services

### *Repatriation Program*

ORR's Repatriation program provides temporary assistance to United States citizens and their dependents who have been identified by the U.S. State Department as having returned or been brought from a foreign country to the United States because of destitution, illness, war, threat of war, or a similar crisis.

In FY2009, approximately 357 repatriation cases were opened, which included repatriation services for 489 individuals. Repatriates arrived from a total of 78 countries and resettled in 48 different states across the U.S.

### *Individual Development Account Program*

Individual development accounts are matched savings accounts that are available to low-income refugees for one or more of the following savings goals: purchasing a home, paying for post secondary education or training, buying an automobile if it is necessary to maintain or upgrade employment, or starting or expanding a business.

In FY2009, ORR funded 22 grantees nationwide for a total of \$4.63 million.



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## ***Refugee Agriculture Partnership Program***

The Refugee Agriculture Partnership program provides opportunities for improving the livelihoods of refugee families in agriculture and food sector business through partnerships with federal, state and local, and public/private organizations.

ORR has partnered with the USDA to organize farmer's markets and urban gardens which provide better nutrition and supplemental income for refugees, while helping them integrate into their new community. Through partnerships with USDA, food stamps are now redeemable in many urban farmers' markets, and can double in value through private foundation contributions.

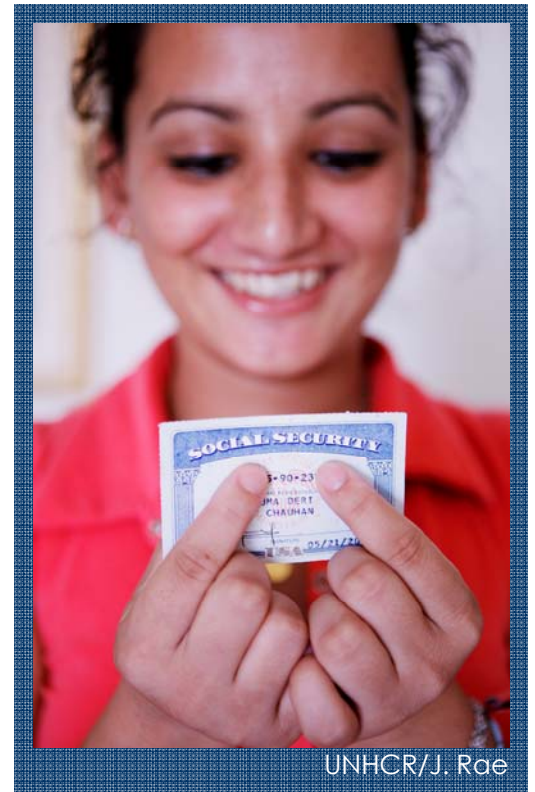
## ***Microenterprise Development Program***

ORR helps refugees start, expand, or sustain a small business. The program is intended for recently arrived refugees who possess few personal assets and who lack credit history that meets commercial lending standards.

ORR currently funds 18 grantees nationwide for a total of \$4 million. Through this program, refugees have started ethnic restaurants, convenience stores, taxicab and limo services, and cleaning companies, often hiring additional refugees as employees.



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## **30 Years of Helping Vulnerable Populations**

For the past three decades, ORR has assisted refugees and other vulnerable populations.

Through a tri-agency effort that includes HHS, DHS, and DOS, the U.S. admits more refugees per year than the entire world combined. Except for UNHCR, ORR is the largest refugee resettlement agency in the world, with an annual budget of \$633 million.

Since 1980, the U.S. has admitted more than 2.49 million refugees. During those years, ORR also served over 314,000 Cuban/Haitian entrants and approximately 13,000 unaccompanied refugee minors. In the past 13 years alone, ORR has served over 335,000 asylees.

Refugees in the U.S. are from over 60 countries and speak over 46 different languages. Throughout the years, they have contributed significantly to America's economy and its diversity.

In March, 2010, ORR will celebrate its 30<sup>th</sup> birthday of assisting refugees and other vulnerable populations.